

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release #64 **Fall Update # 54, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery** Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Fall Season Assessment

The cumulative fall chum salmon total run size based on inseason run reconstruction, is estimated to be greater than 1,000,000 fish. This is above the historical average run size of 700,000 fish for even-numbered years and near the odd-numbered year average. Also this estimated run size is within the preseason projection of 986,000 to 1,242,000 fish. The cumulative coho salmon passage by the Pilot Station sonar project through September 7, based on inseason run reconstruction, is approximately 162,750 fish, which is below the historical median of 166,500 fish for that date. Timing of fish passage was estimated to be four days early for fall chum salmon and two days early for coho salmon.

Lower Yukon River Cooperative Drift Test Fishing – YDFDA, ADF&G

ADF&G ceased conducting test fish drifts on August 28. YDFDA continued the drift project through September 20.

The cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon through September 20 was 2,022, The cumulative CPUE through September 20 for coho salmon was 466, Timing of fish passage for this project was four days early for fall chum salmon and two days late for coho salmon.

Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing - Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council and BSFA

Mountain Village Drift Test Fishery project ceased operations for the season on September 13. The cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon through September 13 is 1,106, which is below the historical median of 2,228 for that date. The cumulative CPUE for coho salmon through September 13 is 776, which is below the historical median of 1,104 for that date. Timing of fish passage for this project was ten days early for fall chum salmon and five days late for coho salmon.

Pilot Station Sonar Project - ADF&G

Pilot Station sonar project ceased operations for the season on September 7. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 7 is approximately 682,871 fish, which is above the median passage of 594,060 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage through September 7 is approximately 106,793 fish, which is below the median passage of 135,570 fish for that date. Timing of fish passage for this project was one day late for both fall chum and coho salmon.

Rapids Test Fish Wheel Project - Zuray

Rapids Test Fish Wheel project ceased operations for the season on September 20. The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE through September 20 is approximately 22, 711 fish, which is below the historical median of 24,675 fish for that date. The cumulative CPUE based on adjusted water level is above the historical median for that date. Timing of fish passage for this project was two days late for Rapids and seven days late for the adjusted for water levels version of assessment.

Chandalar Sonar Project - USFWS

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 30 is approximately 200,343 fish, which is below the average passage. Expansion of the project through October 9 resulted in a preliminary estimate of 205,404 chum salmon. The passage level has exceeded the upper end of the biological escapement goal of 74,000-152,000 fall chum salmon. Timing of fish passage for this project was one day early.

Sheenjek Sonar Project - ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 24 is approximately 89,243 fish, which is above the average passage of 82,596 fish for that date. Expansion of the project through October 9 resulted in a preliminary estimate of 104,752 chum salmon. The passage level exceeded the lower end of the biological escapement goal (based on right bank operations) of 50,000-104,000 fall chum salmon. Timing of fish passage for this project was one day early.

Eagle Sonar Project - ADF&G & DFO

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through October 6 is 147,748 fish, which is below the average passage of 178,744 fish for that date. Expansion of the project through October 18 resulted in a preliminary estimate of 153,286 chum salmon. After harvests are accounted for escapement is expected to remain above the upper end of the interim management escapement goal range of 70,000-104,000 fall chum salmon. Timing of fish passage for this project was average.

Fishing Branch River Weir Project - DFO

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through October 8 is 20,621 fish, which is below the median passage of 26,486 fish for that date. Median timing for this project would suggest the run is nearly 95% through the weir.

Tanana Test Fish Wheel Project - Moore

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 24 is approximately 21,904 fish, which is above the average of 7,948 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage

through September 24 is 7,668 fish, which is above the average of 1,875 fish for that date. Timing of fish passage for this project was three days early for both fall chum and coho salmon.

Stock Identification

Fall chum salmon genetic samples processed from July 19 through September 7 passage past Pilot Station sonar indicate that stocks represented approximately 20% summer, 32% Border U.S. (Chandalar/Sheenjek), 22% Canadian, and 26% Tanana.

Fall Season Management

By regulation the commercial salmon fishing seasons all Yukon Area districts are closed. Subsistence fishing is open 7 days per week in all mainstem districts (Districts 1-5).

Fall Commercial Salmon Fishing

Through September 30, thirteen fall commercial fishing periods have been announced in District Y-1, eleven periods in District Y-2, eight periods in Subdistrict 4-A, eight periods in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, and nine periods in District 6. The Department does not anticipate any further commercial salmon fishing in 2012.

Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:

The cumulative harvest for Y-1 through September 10 is 139,343 fall chum and 39,757 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 71 fish.

Preliminary harvest information for District Y-2:

The cumulative harvest for Y-2 through September 10 is 128,304 fall chum and 29,047 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 34 fish.

Preliminary harvest information for Subdistrict 4-A:

The cumulative Subdistrict 4-A commercial harvest through September 24 is 811 fall chum salmon and the incidental harvest (not sold): 0 Chinook salmon.

Preliminary harvest information for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C:

Period #8: Subdistrict 5-B and 5-C, 120 hours (6:00 p.m. October 2 until 6:00 p.m. October 7). 678 fall chum, 509 coho.

The cumulative commercial harvest for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C through September 30 is 2,419 fall chum salmon, 634 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 0.

Preliminary harvest information for District 6:

Period #9: District 6, 42 hours (6:00 p.m. October 1 until 12:00 noon October 3). 1,061 fall chum/ 7,027 lbs, 391 coho/ 2,125 lbs.

The cumulative commercial harvest for District 6 through October 3 is 17,336 fall chum and 5,335 coho salmon.

Subsistence Salmon Fishing

Coastal District, Districts 1-5, Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B and tributaries (Innoko and Koyukuk rivers): Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Subdistricts 6-C (from the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River): This area includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. Personal use salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at (907) 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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